

***Maserati* and Giovanni Soldini ready for San Francisco-Shanghai record attempt
West to east across the Pacific: the Tea Clipper Route, a new record for an old
passage**

Giovanni Soldini and the *Maserati* team have been on stand-by in San Francisco for the last few days, awaiting the right weather window to cast off for Shanghai.

The Soldini-skipped team's latest ambition is to set a new record on a very old route: the Tea Route from San Francisco to Shanghai (a parallel route compared with the more classic London-Hong Kong one) that was plied by the most cutting-edge and adventurous clippers of the 1800s.

A spell-binding and historic 7,315-mile dash across the Pacific Ocean on which the clippers competed in the mid-19th century to set new speed records. The fastest of them all, however, was *Swordfish*, commanded by Charles Collins, which in 1853 completed the passage in 32 days and 9 hours, an average of 225 miles a day, slashing two days off the previous record set by *Romance of the Sea*.

On this old route Giovanni Soldini and *Maserati* will attempt to establish a new record, which will be officially ratified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council, the international body that certifies the best travel times of modern boats on historical clipper routes.

Aside from Soldini, also aboard *Maserati* for this record attempt will be a crew of eight: Italians Guido Broggi, Andrea Fantini, Francesco Malingri and Marco Spertini; German sailor Boris Herrmann; Jianghe "Tiger" Teng from China; Spaniard Oliver Herrera Perez and Swede Andreas Axelsson.

Giovanni Soldini had this to say about this latest challenge: "Retracing the historic routes of the great navigators of the past is incredibly fascinating. We did it three years ago with the New York-San Francisco Clipper Route, and this year, we're attempting it with the Tea Clipper Route.



There is no recent San Francisco- Shanghai reference record, but we believe *Maserati* will set a good time that will be difficult to beat. We're obviously hoping that this 7,000-mile route will become a classic record in the vein of the New York-San Francisco one. This record attempt is also an excellent opportunity for *Maserati* to get closer to Australia where she has her next date, the legendary Rolex Sydney-Hobart Race which starts in December".

Updates with video footage and still photographs from the boat and a chart showing *Maserati's* position can be found at www.maserati.soldini.it (<<http://www.maserati.soldini.it/>>) and on the following social networks: Facebook (Giovanni Soldini Pagina Ufficiale, over 41.000 friends) and Twitter @giovannisoldini (over 127.000 followers).

The challenge is sponsored by the main partner, Maserati, after which the yacht is named, and by co-sponsors Swiss bank BSI and Unipol SAI Assicuraizoni.

*The official suppliers to the challenge are **Z ZEGNA** (clothing), **Vodafone Italia** (telecommunication services and official website development) and **Boero Bartolomeo S.p.A.** (specialist hull paints and enamels).*

*Also aboard Maserati are **Eataly** (provisioning), **Beta Utensili** (all professional tools), **Corderia Lancelin** (specialist lines and cables), **Jeppesen** (cartography), **B&G Navico** (technical assistance with onboard instrumentation), **Cantiere Picchiotti of La Spezia** (Maserati's home base ashore), and the **La Spezia Port Authority** (Maserati's home port afloat).*

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